

[1027]

CLAIMS

1. A method for illuminating a dartboard, comprising:

providing illumination emanating from and about the periphery of the dartboard, so that illumination emanates toward the surface of the dartboard to be reflected from said surface, thereby enabling substantially uniform illumination of the dartboard without substantial glare or shadow; and

providing a protective surface to provide protection from physical impact to a source of the illumination.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said protective surface allows illumination to emanate through the protective surface toward the dartboard.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said protective surface provides a filter of illumination.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the filter enables control of intensity and frequency spectrum of illumination transmitting through said portion of said protective surface.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said protective surface provides a filter of a polarization of illumination.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said protective surface filters illumination emanating directly from a source to a player in front of the dartboard.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the filter is opaque.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the filter comprises a reflective material to reflect a portion of illumination emanating from a source toward the dartboard.

-12-

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said protective structure comprises a first portion providing a first filter of illumination, and a second portion providing a second filter of illumination.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein one of said filters is opaque.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein illumination is provided by a distributed light source that encompasses substantially the entire periphery of the dartboard.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the illumination is provided by a plurality of discrete sources distributed around the periphery of the dartboard.
13. The method of claim 1, wherein said protective structure is removably attachable to a dartboard apparatus.
14. A dartboard illumination apparatus, comprising:
 - one or more sources of illumination emanating from and about the periphery of the dartboard, so that illumination emanates toward the surface of the dartboard to be reflected from said surface, thereby enabling substantially uniform illumination of the dartboard without substantial glare or shadow; and
 - a protective surface to provide protection from physical impact to a source of the illumination.
15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the illumination is provided from a distributed light source that encompasses substantially the entire periphery of the dartboard.
16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the illumination is provided from a plurality of discrete sources distributed around the periphery of the dartboard.
17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said protective structure is removably attachable to a dartboard apparatus.

-13-

18. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said protective structure comprises a first portion providing a first filter of illumination, and a second portion providing a second filter of illumination.

19. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein at least a portion of said protective surface filters illumination emanating directly from a source to a player in front of the dartboard.

20. A dartboard illumination apparatus, comprising

an illumination assembly to provide illumination emanating from and about the periphery of the dartboard, wherein the illumination is so arranged about the periphery as to provide substantially uniform illumination of a surface of the dartboard; and

a protective structure to provide protection from physical impact to a source of the illumination; wherein at least a portion of the protective structure is translucent.